

REMARKS

Claims 1-28 are all the claims pending in the application. Applicants note that claims 1-17 have been examined on the merits, and that claims 18-28 have been withdrawn from consideration as being drawn to a non-elected invention.

I. Information Disclosure Statement

Applicants note that the Examiner has not returned the PTO-1449 form submitted with the Information Disclosure Statement filed on January 25, 2007. Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner consider the references listed on the PTO-1449 form and return the initialed and signed form with the next Office paper.

II. Claim Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 102

Claims 1-17 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Emens et al. (U.S. 6,463,343).

Claim 1, as amended, recites the features of an image capture section operable to capture, from a display screen, a display image that is to correspond to only a single particular command; a command presenter operable to cause the captured display image to be presented on the display screen so that the user can select the captured display image; and a command selector operable to execute the single particular command when the user selects the captured display image, wherein the selection of the captured display image by the user directly results in the command selector executing the single particular command. Applicants respectfully submit that Emens does not disclose or suggest at least this combination of features recited in amended claim 1.

Regarding Emens, Applicants note that this reference discloses a method for controlling remote devices, such as home appliances, from a client computer using a digital image of the remote location at which the remote devices are located (see col. 2, lines 43-45 and the Abstract). For example, as shown in Fig. 2B of Emens, a live digital image 208 is generated by a video camera 116 and transmitted to a device server 104, wherein the live digital image 208 includes a light switch 202, a lamp 205, and a window shade 206 (see col. 5, lines 61-64).

As explained in Emens, while viewing the digital image 208 in a setup screen shown in Fig. 2C, the user is able to select areas of the digital image 208 in order to define “hot spots” 210 and 212, wherein the “hot spots” 210 and 212 correspond to the light switch 202 and the window shade 206, respectively (see Fig. 2C and col. 6, lines 3-7). In Emens, after assigning commands to the “hot spots”, an operator is then provided with the ability to control the remote devices, such as the light switch 202 and the window shade 206 (see Figs. 2D through 2J).

For example, as shown in Fig. 2E, when a user passes the cursor over the image of the light switch 202, a control menu 216 for the light switch 202 is displayed within the live digital image (see col. 6, lines 23-28). As shown in Fig. 2E, the control menu 216 includes the commands that the user associated with the light switch 202 (i.e., “turn on” and “turn off”). After the control menu 216 appears, the operator may select one of the commands from the control menu 216 in order to control the remote device (see col. 6, lines 29-32).

In the Office Action, the Examiner has apparently taken the position that, in Emens, a display image is captured from the display screen (e.g., light switch 202) and is then made to

correspond to a plurality of commands (e.g., “turn on” and “turn off”) (see Office Action at page 5).

Applicants respectfully submit, however, that while Emens discloses the ability to select a display image (e.g., light switch 202) and associate commands therewith, that there is no disclosure or suggestion in Emens of an image capture section operable to capture, from a display screen, a display image that is to correspond to only a single particular command; a command presenter operable to cause the captured display image to be presented on the display screen so that the user can select the captured display image; and a command selector operable to execute the single particular command when the user selects the captured display image, wherein the selection of the captured display image by the user directly results in the command selector executing the single particular command, as recited in amended claim 1.

In view of the foregoing, Applicants submit that claim 1 is patentable over Emens, an indication of which is kindly requested. Claims 2-8 depend from claim 1 and are therefore considered patentable at least by virtue of their dependency.

Regarding claims 9 and 17, Applicants note that each of these claims has been amended to recite the features of capturing, from a display screen, a display image that is to correspond to only a single particular command; presenting the captured display image on the display screen so that the user can select the captured display image that corresponds to the single particular command; and executing the single particular command when the user selects the captured display image, wherein the selection of the captured display image by the user directly results in the executing of the single particular command.

For at least similar reasons as discussed above with respect to claim 1, Applicants respectfully submit that Emens does not disclose, suggest or otherwise render obvious such features. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that claims 9 and 17 are patentable over Emens, an indication of which is kindly requested. Claims 10-16 depend from claim 9 and are therefore considered patentable at least by virtue of their dependency.

III. Conclusion

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may best be resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,

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